

B A T T L E R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L .

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT

for

1941.

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COPY

BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

Council Offices,
The Watch Oak,
Battle.

19th November, 1942.

The Assistant Secretary,
Ministry of Health,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

Dear Sir,

Annual Report of the M.O.H. for
Battle Rural District.

As directed in Ministerial Circular 2604 five copies of my Annual Report were sent to the Ministry of Health on 18th November, 1942.

I regret that arithmetical mistakes necessitate the following corrigenda:

p.3 Live Births Legitimate. The total should be 361 not 461.

The Live birth rate should be 13.05 not 13.95.

p.14 (last line) the total of cases of respiratory tuberculosis, female, noted for the first time should be 7 not 8.

/I

I was informed at the Public Health Committee that, I should not have sent the copies of my report to the Ministry until it had been accepted by the District Council. This sits on December 3rd, will you therefore kindly consider my report as not received till after that date.

If the District Council demand alterations you shall be informed.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed.) Alan Moore.

Medical Officer of Health.

BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

Mr. Chairman & Members of the Battle Rural District Council.

I have the honour of presenting the eighth Annual Report of the Battle Rural District.

It is shortened as were the Reports for 1939 and 1940 by direction of the Ministry of Health.

Figures that indicate population should be regarded as secret.

Some of those concerned with the production of this report have been so unusually busy that it has not been possible to finish it earlier.

Several branches of public health work suffered in 1941 from the reduction of our staff and from the additional work thrown on those that remained.

It was necessary to give up Routine House Inspection.

Inspections under the Milk & Dairies Order, except for registration of new applicants were almost dropped in the first half of the year, but it was found possible to pick up this work later.

Mr. Francis continued to assist with Meat Inspections at Rye. He used to go three or four times a week until the Government Slaughtering was transferred to Hastings in August.

Inspections under the Factories & Workshops Acts were almost entirely dropped but were resumed.

There were inevitable delays in dealing with complaints.

For a time the Medical Officer found himself unable to visit after scarlet fever as often as he wished.

Mr. Jenner the Chief Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector was in charge of rescue parties and static water supplies at nodal points and had time for very little Public Health work.

Mr. A. E. Harris's special extra work was and is Salvage. This has taken a great deal of his time. The results speak for themselves.

Mr. W. Francis went for a fortnight to the A.R.P. School at Falfield and is a First Class A.R.P. School Instructor. He lectures at night.

He had and has duties in the Control Room. He was and is in charge of decontamination of streets and buildings, of the treatment and disposal of gas-contaminated food stuffs, of gas cleansing centres and of the decontamination of clothing at commercial laundries.

Dealing with people evacuated from London and other districts had ceased in 1941 to offer a serious problem. In September 1939 the number of immigrants was about 5,500; in June of 1940 about 3,000; in 1941 the average was about 600.

A tiresome legacy of the evacuation was scabies. Cases were frequent. Most of the work of dealing with them fell on the District Nurses.

On July 1st your M.O.H. became also M.O.H. for the Borough of Rye.

The greatest contribution to Public Health in 1941 was the beginning of free clinics for immunization against diphtheria.

The local medical men were generous with help and offers of help.

In the latter half of the year Colonel J.E.H. Sawyer, M.D. M.R.C.P. who has very kindly continued to act as honorary Deputy M.O.H. began to give the necessary injections at the clinics. He has ever since gone on indefatigably with this valuable work, a work of national importance if ever there was one.

Except for a sharp rise in the number of cases of scarlet fever the general health, as far as notifiable diseases shew it, has been at least equal to that of recent years of peace. Even the number of cases of scarlet fever is lower than in any year before the war since 1934.

The winter of 1940-41 was hard though not so hard as that of a year before. There was much frost and heavy snow in January.

In August a weathercock for the Council Offices was made by Mr. Bramley. This might prove valuable in the event of a gas attack and it is welcome because everyone is interested in the weather and weather cannot be understood without knowing the direction of the wind.

In thanking all who have worked with me in the Public Health Department and in compiling this report I am not fulfilling a perfunctory duty but am pleased to draw attention to hard work well and cheerfully done. Especially besides those named I must record the patient and diligent help given by Mr. A. N. Company who in 1941 was still Chief Clerk in the Department, and by his successor Miss Whatley.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ALAN MOORE

Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department,
The Watch Oak,
BATTLE,
Sussex.

13th November, 1942.

Statistics & Social Conditions.

Area in acres	117,059	
Population in 1941	27,560	
No. of inhabited dwelling houses, estimated	9,780	
No. of rateable premises	11,051	
Rateable value, 1.IV.42	£192,131	
Sum represented by a penny rate for the financial year ending March 31st 1941.	£751. 4. 1d.	

Occupation & Industry

The chief industries are agriculture and dairy farming.

The gypsum mine and factory in Mountfield Parish in 1941 employed 250 persons of whom 145 men worked wholly underground.

Other important industries are a tannery, a jam factory, and a steel window frame factory at Battle and near Rye a tile factory and two factories where piles, slabs, curbs, pipes and the like are made from concrete mixed with the local beach.

In 1941 five boats were engaged in sea fishing, not counting those based on the Borough of Rye.

Unemployment.

The Manager of the Employment Exchange at 23, Priory Street, Hastings states that he may not give statistics of the numbers employed in specific areas

Live Births:

	Males	Females	Total
Logitimate	153	208	3461
Illegitimate	15	8	23

Live Birth rate per 1000 of Resident Population 13.93

Birth Rate per 1000 for England & Wales 14.2

Stillbirths:

	Males	Females
Logitimate	4	0
Illegitimate	0	1

Stillbirth rate per 1000 total births live & still 10.22

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths (civilian only)	182	181	363

Nett death-rate per 1000 of estimated population	13.17
Corrected death rate. Areal comparibility factors not given.	
Death-rate for England & Wales.	12.9

Maternal Mortality

Deaths from puerperal infection	none
Other maternal causes	1
Maternal mortality rate	2.06
Maternal Mortality rate for England & Wales	
From puerperal Infection	0.48
Other maternal causes	1.75
Total maternal mortality rate for England & Wales	2.23

Infant Mortality

	Male	Female	
Deaths of infants under one year of age			
Legitimate	10	4	
Illegitimate	1	0	
Infant death rate per 1000 live births			30.99
Infant death rate for England & Wales			59
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births			30.36
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births			43.47
Deaths from measles, all ages			male 1
Death rate from measles per 1000 of population			.036
Death rate from measles for England & Wales			10.33
Deaths from whooping cough, all ages			female 2
Death rate from whooping cough per 1000 of population			.072
Death rate from whooping cough for England & Wales			4.39
Death from diarrhoea under 2 years of age			none
Death rate from diarrhoea and enteritis for children under 2 years of age per 1000 live births in England and Wales			5.1

	Male	Female
Deaths from Cancer	26	33
Death rate from cancer per 1000 of population		2.14
Cancer death rate for England & Wales. Not available since 1938, then		1.66

Deaths from cancer

All deaths are included for which any form of cancer was mentioned in the death certificate. The primary seat of disease is given where known and the probable primary seat where more than one site is given without specification.

No sarcoma was recorded.

Fuller information received by the Registrar General after certification causes a slight discrepancy between his figures and those of our Death Register.

Male 24 Female 32

Ages.	Alimentary canal including oesophagus but not pharynx		Breast		Lungs		Other	
	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f
25 - 30				1				1
31 - 44							2	2
45 - 54		2						1
55 - 64	1	2	1	2			4	6
65 - 74	6	3					3	3
75 & above	6	1		3			1	5

General Provision of Health Services.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health, part time with Tuberculosis and school work under the M.O.H. of the East Sussex County Council. Since July 1st 1941 also M.O.H. for the Borough of Rye.

Alan Moore M.B. D.P.H.

Chief Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

A. J. Jenner A.R.S.I.

Deputy Chief Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

A. E. Harris C.R.S.I.
M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

W. Francis C.R.S.I. M.S.I.A.

Assistant Surveyor, Water, Housing & Sewage Disposal Dept.

G. A. Bramley F.I.A.S
M Inst. R.A.

Chief Clerk in the Public Health & Surveyor's Department.

A. N. Campamy.

Adoptive Acts.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890.

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1890

Sections 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 are in force in the whole District, and Section 37 under the Battle Rural (Urban Powers) Order, 1935, is in force in the contributory places of Battle; Broomhill; Crowhurst; Fairlight; Guestling; Icklesham; Ore; Pett; St. Thomas the Apostle, Winchelsea; Salehurst and Westfield.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1907

Sections 17, 22, 27, 30, 32, & 33.

Section 33 is repealed as far as Byelaws are concerned.

Public Health Act 1925

Sections 14 & 24 are in force in the whole District.

Sections 21 & 22, now exercisable exclusively by the County Council are in force in the Parish of Battle.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1934

Section 1 was adopted on November 1st 1934.

The Battle Rural (Urban Powers) Order; 1937

In operation since January 9th 1937. It deals with special expenses for fireplugs in certain parishes.

The Battle R.D.C. has urban powers by virtue of the following sections of the Public Health Act, 1936:

Section 46 deals with sanitary conveniences in factories, workshops and workplaces. In force throughout the District.

Section 263: water courses in urban districts not to be culverted except in accordance with approved plans. In force in the contributory places of Battle, Brede, Burwash, Etchingham, Fairlight, Guestling, Icklesham, Northiam, Pett, Salehurst, Ticehurst and Westfield.

Section 264: Urban Authorities may require repair and cleansing of culverts. In force as Section 263.

Byelaws

New Building Byelaws came into force on April 1st 1939.

New Byelaws for New Streets came into force on June 1st, 1939

New Byelaws for Hop & Fruit pickers came into force on June 1st, 1939.

Byelaws for slaughter houses, adopted on or after January 1st, 1934 by the Battle Urban District Council.

Immunization against Diphtheria.

Ministerial Circular 2230 of December 7th 1940 stated that immunizing material would be supplied at Government expense and urged Local Authorities to secure the immunization of as many children as possible. On January 2nd 1941 the Council accepted the recommendation of the Finance & Staff Committee: "that this Council undertake the free immunization of all children up to 15 years of age, provided they attend for this purpose at the appointed times and places." It was agreed later that sessions should be held at schools, halls or welfare centres and that the local medical practitioners should usually give the inoculations. Letters were sent to the parents of all children attending the public elementary schools and to parents who were known to have children likely to attend the same schools.

A letter was also sent to all incumbents and clergy asking them to make known the offer of free immunization. The District Nurses gave valuable help in spreading the news.

On March 24th I was able to report to the Public Health Committee that written consent had been received for immunizing 2,218 children.

The first large session was held at Sedlescombe on February 3rd.

In July, 1941 Lt. Col. J.E.H. Sawyer in his capacity of Deputy M.O.H. undertook the work of immunizing at sessions. Not only has he given most of the injections since then but has taken on his shoulders a great part of the necessary organization.

He reports that the Burwash Branch of the British Red Cross Society has supplied nurses for every session, sometimes as often as five times a week. Colonel Sawyer stresses how valuable this help has been.

He has found the Head Teachers extremely keen, not objecting to clinics for children under school age being held at their schools, notifying parents and otherwise helping with propaganda.

In the second half of the year Colonel Sawyer gave more than 600 injections.

Alum Precipitated Toxoid (A.P.T.) from the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories is the immunizing material used. The injections are made into the deltoid muscle first in one arm and then of the other at intervals of not less than four weeks or more than eight.

The First is 0.2 c.c. and the second 0.5 c.c.

Only the slightest reactions have been met.

It is specially important to have children immunized as soon as possible after they have completed their first year. The help of the District Nurses is especially valuable in persuading parents to this.

Schick-testing is not offered free. Colonel Sawyer thinks, as every medical man must, that Schick-testing after inoculation is desirable. Colonel Sawyer advocates testing a few children at first and that if the tests shew that many have not been protected then all inoculated children should if possible be tested.

He thinks too that children inoculated before entering school should be tested on admission.

As far as can be calculated, by the end of 1941 about 33.45% of potential elementary school children aged 1 to 4 and 77.82% of children attending the public elementary schools had been protected.

Though not nearly enough children under school age have been protected it is gratifying that so many parents have taken advantage of the Council's offer. It is gratifying both because of the advance made towards stamping out a dreadful disease and because of the general intelligence and appreciation of facts that their consent shews.

Diphtheria is justly feared. A measure of the dread it inspired is the widespread anxiety felt till lately when a child suffered from croup. This anxiety is dwindling now. It comes down from the time before anti-toxin and bacterial investigation when any case of croup might be one of diphtheria.

Schools.

The following schools were closed in 1941 for the reasons and for the times given.

<u>School</u>	<u>Reason for Closure</u>	<u>from</u>	<u>to</u>
Flimwell	influenza	3rd Feb.	7th Feb.
Ewhurst	influenza	4th Feb.	11th Feb.
Beckley	measles	27th Feb.	20th March
Peasmarsh	whooping-cough	31st March	9th April
Netherfield	whooping-cough & chickenpox	29th April	9th May
Stonegate	measles & chickenpox	10th June	24th June
Sedlescombe	scarlet fever & sore throats	(16th June (23rd June (7th July (14th July	20th June 27th June 11th July 18th July
Farwash Weald	scarlet fever	2nd July	11th July

Port of Rye.

In 1941 no trading vessels entered or left the port. 5 of the 19 fishing boats of the port were berthed at Rye Harbour.

General Public Health Work.

Nuisances detected	69
Nuisances abated	57
No. of inspections in regard to drainage	228
No. of inspections in regard to water supply	119
No. of water samples taken	29
No. of premises connected to main water supplies	45
No. of inspections in regard to dwelling houses under Public Health & Housing Acts.	103
No. of houses repaired	44
No. of houses reconstructed (Sec. 11)	NIL
No. of Demolition Orders made	1
No. of houses demolished	NIL
(This is in accordance with the Ministry of Health's instructions that actual demolitions are to be suspended for the duration of the war).	
No. of visits to cowsheds	108
No. of new cowsheds constructed	9
No. of cowsheds reconstructed	15
No. of cowsheds registered during the year	56
No. of milk samples taken (Methylene Blue Test)	140
No. of samples passed	97
No. of samples failed	43
No. of new building inspections	43
No. of hoppickers' dwellings (visits to farms)	56
No. of visits for Infectious Diseases	47
No. of houses disinfected	33
No. of visits in connection with Salvage and Refuse Collection.	315
No. of inspections under Food & Drugs Act	37
<u>Premises Registered (Food & Drugs Act):</u>	
Food preparation premises	13
Slaughterhouse visits	40

Meat Inspection.

The Sanitary Inspectors continued to assist with the inspection of meat at the Government Slaughterhouse at Rye until local slaughtering was transferred to Hastings in August.

During the year 7,131 lbs. of meat (and 46 lbs. of other foods) were found to be diseased or otherwise unfit for food and withheld from sale for human consumption.

Factories & Workshops.

No. of premises visited	25
Defects remedied	10
New Sanitary Conveniences & drainage	6
Minor Defects	3
Water Supply	1

War Salvage Scheme.

Mr. Harris reports:-

The Council commenced their Salvage Scheme early in the year 1940, later Salvage Collection became compulsory and depots were set up through the District; forty six salvage stewards were appointed, mainly on the recommendation of the Parish Councils.

Depots have been set up in nearly every parish which are regularly cleared by the Council's vehicles.

Additional transport is provided when necessary by the use of A.R.P. Rescue Party Lorry.

Since the Scheme was started the following Salvage has been collected.

Year 1940.

	<u>Weight</u>			<u>Value received</u>		
	tons	cwts	qrs	£	s.	d.
	261	16	-	890.	15.	1

Year 1941.

Waste Paper	152	9	2	859.	18.	9
Ferrous Metals	101	3	1	164.	18.	4
Non-ferrous Metals	3	14	2	75.	13.	8
Rags	5	12	0	54.	3.	6
Bottles & Jars	14	17	1	42.	7.	9
Bones	10	14	3	25.	6.	0
Sundries		10	2	3.	4.	9
	289	1	3	£1225.	12.	9

Total Salvage collected since commencement of Scheme to December 1941,

550 tons 17 cwt. 3 qrs. £2116. 7. 10d.

New Dwellings 1941

During the year new dwellings were erected in two parishes only.

Parish	Dwellings built during 1941	Dwellings not exceeding £19 Rateable Value	Incomplete Dwellings.
Battle	1	1	1
Bediam	6	6	-
Bloomhill	-	-	1
Etchingham	-	-	2
Fairlight	-	-	3
Guestling	-	-	2
Northiam	-	-	1
	7	7	10

Dwellings built in 1941 by private enterprise 7

Dwellings (included in the above) not exceeding £19. R.V. 7

Dwellings incomplete at 31.12.41 10

The Battle Rural District Council built no houses in 1941.

In 26 parishes no building took place.

Civil Defence.

Sub-Controller Colonel W. E. Hume-Spry D.S.O.

First Aid Commandant till May 28th, Col. J.E.H.Sawyer M.D.

C.R.C.P.

then, Mr. W.F.G.Carter, A.R.P.S.

Assistant "

Mrs. E. Thorpe, F.B.C.N. S.R.N.

The following means exist for dealing with casualties.

Five First Aid Party depots:-

Battle with 3 first aid parties, Guestling and Northiam with 2 parties each, Etchingham and Robertsbridge with 1 party each, Winchelsea with a non-mobile party.

Each mobile party comprises four men and an ambulance with an attendant, a car for sitting cases, and a car to carry the Party to the scene of the incident.

Non-mobile parties have no ambulance or car attached to them but rely on stretcher bearers and cars in the town allowed to be used for sitting cases.

Two mobile first aid posts:-

One at Battle in medical charge of Dr. W. E. Davidson and one at Robertsbridge in medical charge of Dr. E. C. Maxwell.

Each parish has one or more First Aid Points according to the size of the parish. Where possible, a trained nurse acts as Leader with about six assistants.

At Catsfield and Winchelsea is stationed a rescue party of 10 men each.

Training of the Casualty Services Personnel has been carried out regularly throughout 1941; courses of lectures in war-time First Aid, Nursing and gas being held all over the Battle District.

Combined training has been carried out between Rescue and First Aid Depots at Battle, Catsfield, Northiam, Guestling and Winchelsea in Rescue and First Aid.

Members of the Mobile Post stationed at Battle have visited many of the parishes in the District, in order to familiarise themselves with First Aid Point personnel and with the positions and facilities of the Points. All Post and Point Personnel hold weekly practices.

First Aid Parties have organised practices and small exercises amongst themselves. They have also assisted in training and demonstrating.

On May 4th a large scale exercise was held in Battle in which all branches of the casualty services took part, also wardens Home Guard, etc. Exercises on a smaller scale have been held from time to time in various parishes.

During 1941 there were five casualties of whom one was found dead and two were serious. These occurred at Crowhurst (3) Westfield and Fairlight.

Illness.

Cases of diseases other than tuberculosis notified in 1940 and 1941.

Disease	Cases notified		admissions to isolation hospitals in 1941	Deaths of notified patients in 1941
	1940	1941		
scarlet fever	16	29	21*	0
diphtheria	9	5	5	0
enteric, including paratyphoid	1	1	0	0
puerperal pyrexia	2	1	0	0
pneumonia	21	10	0	2
ophthalmia neonatorum	1	2	0	0

* including one Army patient but not including an Army patient sent to a military hospital.

Disease	Cases notified 1940	Cases notified 1941	admissions to isolation hos- pitals in 1941	Deaths of notified patients 1941
anterior polio- myelitis	0	0	1	0
cerebro-spinal meningitis	2	5 (2 in Army)	5	1
erysipelas	3	4 (1 in Army)	1 and 1 to military hospital	0
measles	92	87	1 to a mili- tary hospital	0
whooping cough	17	117	9	0

Age Groups

	Under												65 & age not over known
	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64			
scarlet fever	1			1	15	8	1	2	1				
diphtheria							3	2					
paratyphoid								1					
puerperal pyrexia								1					
pneumonia		2				2			3	2	1		
Ophthalmia													
neonatorum	2												
anterior polio- myelitis									1				
cerebro-spinal meningitis							1	2		1	1 a soldier		
erysipelas										4			
measles	1	2	4	2	2	25	26	18	4		3		
whooping cough	6	10	13	6	14	57	5		2	2	2		

Scarlet Fever in 1941

Incidence in parishes for each month.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Parish and Number in each.</u>
January	Ticehurst 1.
February	Ticehurst 1.
March	Ticehurst 1, Bodiam 1 (Army).
April	Burwash 2.
June	Sedlescombe 9, Burwash 1.
July	Sedlescombe 3, Burwash 1.
August	Sedlescombe 1, Burwash 1.
September	Battle 2, Catsfield 1.
October	Westfield 1, Whatlington 1.
December	Whatlington 1, Sedlescombe 1.

Tuberculosis

Action under Section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925: none required.

Action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925: none required.

Cases on Register 31st December 1941

<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
47	54	101	23	29	52

Cases notified for the first time, civilians only.

The cases of patients new to the District whose disease was known a considerable time before they entered are not included even though notified on Form A in the District, nor are cases that proved doubtful.

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Under 1				
1 - 4			2	1
5 - 14			4	
15 - 24		2	1	
25 - 34	1			2
35 - 44	1	2		
45 - 54	2	3		
55 - 64				
65 & above	1			
	5	5	7	3

Tuberculosis Deaths

That is to say deaths of people who lived in the District and died there and deaths of people who belonged to the District but who died outside it in hospital or elsewhere.

Age Groups	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
under 1				
1 - 4				1*
5 - 14				
15 - 24			1*	
25 - 34			1*	
35 - 44	4			
45 - 54	2			
55 - 64		2		1*
65 & above	1	3**		
Totals	7	5	2	2

(* name not in tuberculosis register)

(** 2 names not in tuberculosis register)

Of 12 deaths from Respiratory tuberculosis there was no record of notification for 2 cases.

Of 4 deaths from non-respiratory tuberculosis there was no record of notification.

T H E E N D .



